INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

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Rumania

Medical Practice and Hospital Administration in Rumania

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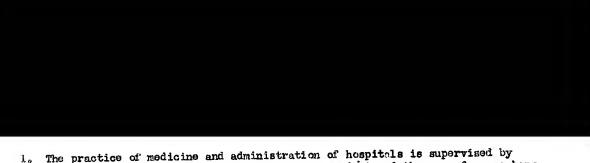
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- The practice of medicine and administration of hospitals is supervised by "Regional Sanitary Unions", directed by a president and three or four members. These unions supervise the cultural, political and economic activities of the membership. Each regional union supports an ARLUS cultural center, whose official purpose is the promotion of friendship between the Rumanian and Soviet peoples. In reality the true purpose of this cultural center is to spread propaganda for Communism and to use up the free time of the members in lectures, discussion groups and demonstrations. Members are given study projects which require work in Communist newspapers and periodicals. Labor is likewise required of members. The following notice was posted at the children's hospital in Strada Grigore Alexandrescu, Rucharest: "On (date not given) two truck-loads of potatoes arrived and the following comrades helped to unload the trucks. Those who were absent yesterday will be punished".
- Principal posts are entrusted to members of the Rumanian Workers Party who generally lack the necessary training. They are in turn assisted by specialists who do the work and are held responsible. For example, a fourth-year medical student who is a Party member is designated as nose, throat and ear specialist. Medical students do not specialize in nose, ear and throat until the fifth and sixth years. At the M.C.B. Hospital a former interne whose specialty is stematology has been appointed chief hygienist. At one unidentified hospital the administrator is said to be a gypsy who is unable to present reports to the staff meetings. Such reports are delivered for him by a physician. Persons responsible for cultural and economic matters must consult the individual responsible for political matters before reaching a decision on any problem; the person responsible for political matters must in turn consult the chief of cadres who is a Party official.
- Farty functionaries give no weight to recommendations of non-Party specialists. A physician carnot grant sick leave for a period longer than seven days whatever may be the condition of the patient. If more than seven days leave is needed, a special commission of Party members who have no medical training make an investigation. Thiring the visit of one such commission to a hospital it investigated a patient with an every disorder requiring X-ray treatment and a month of complete rest. A member of the commission remarked that this woman had been in the hospital several times before, to which the physician replied that since treatments had not been of sufficient duration the patient had not

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been cured. Whereupon the member of the commission asked, "why don't you take out the ovaries in such cases".

4. Physicians are forbidden to request patients to bring drugs with them to the hospital, even though such drugs are not available at the hospital. They are likewise forbidden to ask the patients to bring their own linen. Drugs and equipment are in short supply. Ordinary sewing thread dipped in alcohol is used for sewing incisions. The drug "Chelemul", which is used as an anesthetic, is imported from the USSR; it is generally impure and can be fatal because of the large doses that must be administered. Soviet-manufactured penicillin is said to be worthless and has resulted in the death of patients using it.

High Party functionaries are treated at the Elias Hospital, where foreign medicines of the best quality are stocked. A special authorization of the Ministry of Interior is required for admission to the institution.

5. Professors of medical subjects in the universities have been left undisturbed, but their assistants are all members of the Party. Nurses of long service who are not Party members, and for whom replacements are not available, are required to work longer hours than murses belonging to the Party, in some instances up to fourteen hours daily.

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